

(Washington, D.C.) -U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that he has secured federal funding to build a new headquarters building for the Army 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center in Bryan. Edwards added the funding to the final 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010. The 2010 Appropriations bill passed the House today by a vote of 221 to 202, and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law this month.

Edwards, Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee said, "This is great news for the brave service men and women of the 420th Engineering Brigade in Bryan, who recently returned home after a year of duty in Afghanistan. Building a new, first class headquarters sends a clear message that we respect their service and sacrifice. I recently toured the current Reserve Center in Bryan, and saw firsthand that the facilities are undersized, inefficient, and simply inadequate to carry out the responsibilities of today's citizen soldier.

"21st Century soldiers shouldn't have to train in Cold War era facilities. Ensuring our service men and women have the best facilities in which to train and live is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. In an all-volunteer military force, we cannot expect to attract and retain the best and brightest if we do not provide quality training facilities."

Brigadier General James H. Doty Jr., Commander, 420th Engineer Brigade said, "I am elated that the Congress has approved \$12.2 million dollars to construct a desperately needed Army Reserve Center for our Headquarters in Bryan, Texas in the fiscal year 2010 Military Construction Appropriations bill, thanks in large measure to the unwavering leadership shown by the committee chair and our local representative from the 17th District, Congressman Chet Edwards.

"The Brigade Headquarters has deployed and courageously fought in both Iraq and Afghanistan within a five year period. Our brave warrior citizens deserve a facility worthy of their commitment and sacrifice.

Although the need for the facility has long been recognized by the Department of Defense, this legislation will accelerate its completion by over two years. When combined with the planning

and design funding from the previous year and the support we are receiving from the City of Bryan in obtaining an adequate site, the community will have a facility they can be proud of and that will help our men and women train for combat."

The \$12.2 million secured by Edwards covers the total projected cost for construction of the new Army Reserve Center. On a tour of the current 420th Engineer Brigade Reserve Center last May, Edwards saw firsthand the cracked floors and damage to the walls and ceiling at the current facility, and pledged to seek additional funds to construct a new facility as Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. The current building, built in 1958, is considered unsafe due to the instability of the foundation, which has resulted in cracked floors and damage to the walls and ceiling.

This new facility will provide eight acres of land and a 150-member training facility with an administrative area, educational area, assembly area, a library, a learning center, a vault, a weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for four Army Reserve units. There will be a maintenance shop and additional storage and parking.

The 420th recently returned home to Bryan after a tour of duty in Afghanistan. On D-Day, Edwards welcomed them home in an official ceremony, where he also helped present the Silver Star to Specialist David R. Hutchinson of the 420th, only the 5th Army reservist in American history to receive the Silver Star.

In 2008, Edwards secured \$920,000 in federal funds for the planning and design of the new facility.

